

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int. Application No
PCT/EP 03/00277

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 C08L53/02 C08F297/04 B32B27/32

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 C08L C09D C09J C08F C09K B32B G09F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
P, X	WO 02 28965 A (KRATON POLYMERS RES B V ;HANDLIN DALE LEE JR (US); DJIAUM LIE KHON) 11 April 2002 (2002-04-11) * (same applicant, same invention - invalid application priority date); pg.2, line 18-25; pg 6, line 22; pg 6, line 10- pg.8, line 5; pg 8, line 11-pg10, line 25; claims 1-8; examples; pg.1, line 9-20 * page 5, line 28-32; claim 8	1-6
X	US 5 346 964 A (SHIBATA TOORU ET AL) 13 September 1994 (1994-09-13) * column 7, line 30; column 1, line 61-column 2, line 1; column 2, line 31-38; column 3, line 9-12, 40-44; column 9, line 22-33; column 10, line 51-column 12, line 20; column 3, line 55-column 4, line 6* column 7, line 44-59	1-6
-/-		

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

A document defining the general state of the art which is not
considered to be of particular relevance*E* earlier document but published on or after the International
filing date*L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or
which is cited to establish the publication date of another
citation or other special reason (as specified)*O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or
other means*P* document published prior to the international filing date but
later than the priority date claimed*T* later document published after the international filing date
or priority date and not in conflict with the application but
cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the
invention*X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention
cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to
involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone*Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention
cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the
document is combined with one or more other such docu-
ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled
in the art

Z document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

2 February 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

12.02.04

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.O. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2220 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx 31 651 epo nl,
Fax (+31-70) 340-3018

Authorized officer

Hammond, A

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

1 International Application No.
PCI/EP 03/00277

C/(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 01 09239 A (ESNEAULT CALVIN P ; MAUGANS REXFORD A (US); HO THOI H (US); PATEL R) 8 February 2001 (2001-02-08) * page 2, line 11-12 ; claims 1-7 ; abstract ; page 33, line 32 ; page 1, line 21-22 * page 34, line 19 -page 35, line 24	1-6
X	EP 0 863 193 A (SHELL INT RESEARCH) 9 September 1998 (1998-09-09) * page 6, line 2-5 ; page 2, line 29-54 ; page 3, line 54-56 ; page 4, line 29-34 ; page 4, line 41 - page 5, line 39 *	1-5
Y	US 4 970 259 A (MITCHELL NEIL F ET AL) 13 November 1990 (1990-11-13) * claims 1-15 ; column 3, line 1-9 ; column 4, line 29-36 ; 42-46 ; examples *	1-6
Y	EP 1 061 099 A (KUREHA CHEMICAL IND CO LTD) 20 December 2000 (2000-12-20) * claims 1,2,4,3-17, particularly films and laminated films ; page 4, line 9-31, 42-57 ; page 2, line 1-8 ; abstract *	1-6
A	WO 01 19919 A (SHELL INT RESEARCH) 22 March 2001 (2001-03-22) * abstract ; claims *	1-6
A	EP 0 254 346 A (SHELL INT RESEARCH) 27 January 1988 (1988-01-27) * claims 1-10 ; abstract *	1-6
A	US 6 042 907 A (BLACKWELDER MAURICE W ET AL) 28 March 2000 (2000-03-28) * abstract ; claims 1-5 * column 5, line 41-43	1-6
A	EP 0 413 262 A (KURARAY CO) 20 February 1991 (1991-02-20) * abstract * page 3, line 1-50	1-6
A	EP 0 822 227 A (SHELL INT RESEARCH) 4 February 1998 (1998-02-04) * page 2, line 46-56 ; page 3, line 1-8 ; table 1 *	1-6
A	US 5 627 235 A (HIMES GLENN R) 6 May 1997 (1997-05-06) * column 1, line 10-13 ; column 1, line 60 - column 2, line 5 ; column 2, line 55-65* abstract; table 1	1-6

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International application No.
PCT/EP 03/00277

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this International application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☒ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
1-6
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☒ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

International Application No. PCT/EP 03 00277

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. Claims: 1-5

A composition suitable for the manufacture of fibres, filaments, melt blown or spun bond non-wovens or cast or blown films. The said composition comprising at least 50 wt.% of a styrenic block copolymer of either molecular structure S-EB-S ... (1), or of molecular structure (S-EB)_nX ... (2) as described in the application claim 1 ; 10-30 wt.% of a polyolefin ; at least 5 wt.% of a resin which is compatible with the polystyrene blocks ; at least 3 wt.% of a resin which is compatible with the hydrogenated polybutadiene blocks.

2. Claim : 6

Fibres, filaments, melt blown or spun bond non-wovens or cast or blown films, derived from a composition according to any one of the claims 1 to 5.

3. Claims: 7-10

A styrenic block copolymer product as described in application claims 7-10.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.

PCT/EP 03/00277

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International Application No.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Patent Application No

PCT/EP 03/00277

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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		NO 961760 A	26-06-1996
		RU 2160755 C2	20-12-2000
		US RE36757 E	27-06-2000

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

KRATON Polymers	
IP	
06 MEI 2003	
Action	

From the INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

PCT

INVITATION TO PAY ADDITIONAL FEES

(PCT Article 17(3)(a) and Rule 4C.1)

To:

KRATON POLYMERS RESEARCH B.V.
Attn. Kortekaas, Marcel
Badhuysweg 3
1031 CM Amsterdam
NETHERLANDS

Date of mailing
(day/month/year)

02/05/2003

Applicant's or agent's file reference

L0004A/FJS-1

PAYMENT DUE

within 30 ~~XXXX~~ days
from the above date of mailing

International application No.

PCT/EP 03/00277

International filing date
(day/month/year)

13/01/2003

Applicant:

KRATON POLYMERS RESEARCH B.V.

1. This International Searching Authority

- (i) considers that there are 3 (number of) inventions claimed in the international application covered by the claims indicated ~~XXXX~~ on the extra sheet:

and it considers that the international application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention (Rules 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3) for the reasons indicated ~~XXXX~~ on the extra sheet:

- (ii) ☒ has carried out a partial international search (see Annex) ☐ will establish the international search report on those parts of the international application which relate to the invention first mentioned in claims Nos.:
1-5
- (iii) will establish the international search report on the other parts of the international application only if, and to the extent to which, additional fees are paid

2. The applicant is hereby invited, within the time limit indicated above, to pay the amount indicated below:

EUR 945,00 x 2 = EUR 1.890,00
Fee per additional invention: number of additional inventions total amount of additional fees

Or, _____ x _____ = _____

The applicant is informed that, according to Rule 40.2(c), the payment of any additional fee may be made under protest, i.e., a reasoned statement to the effect that the international application complies with the requirement of unity of invention or that the amount of the required additional fee is excessive.

3. ☐ Claim(s) No. _____ have been found to be unsearchable under Article 17(2)(b) because of defects under Article 17(2)(a) and therefore have not been included with any invention.

Name and mailing address of the International Searching Authority



European Patent Office, P.B. 5815 Patentlaan 2
NL-2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer:

Monika Schmitz

INVITATION TO PAY ADDITIONAL FEES

International application No.

PCT/EP 03/00277

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. Claims: 1-5

A composition suitable for the manufacture of fibres, filaments, melt blown or spun bond non-wovens or cast or blown films. The said composition comprising at least 50 wt.% of a styrenic block copolymer of either molecular structure S-EB-S ... (1), or of molecular structure (S-EB)_nX ... (2) as described in the application claim 1; 10-30 wt.% of a polyolefin; at least 5 wt.% of a resin which is compatible with the polystyrene blocks; at least 3 wt.% of a resin which is compatible with the hydrogenated polybutadiene blocks.

2. Claim : 6

Fibres, filaments, melt blown or spun bond non-wovens or cast or blown films, derived from a composition according to any one of the claims 1 to 5.

3. Claims: 7-10

A styrenic block copolymer product as described in application claims 7-10.

The present application claims contain several inventions in consideration that the "corresponding technical features" or "special technical features" of a composition suitable for the manufacture of fibres, filaments, melt blown or spun bond non-wovens or cast or blown films, comprising at least 50 wt.% of a styrenic block copolymer as detailed in the application claim 1 are not novel and inventive in view of the disclosures of W00228965, US5346964, W00109239, EP0863193, US4970259, EP1061099 etc. (see search report).

Since the application's "corresponding technical features" or "special technical features" of the application's first subjective problem relating to providing the said composition as described above (and also most notably in application claim 1), are not novel and inventive, the application clearly does not contain any "special" technical features within the meaning of Rule 13.2 PCT, that is to say, "...technical features that define a contribution...over the prior art.", and thus the present application does not meet the requirements of Rule 13.1 PCT for lack of unity.

Consequently, it is immediately clear that the present application does not contain a single problem, but rather relates additionally to several other different problems such as various fibres, or filaments, or melt blown or spun bond non-wovens, or cast or blown films etc, or a styrene block copolymer product etc., as addressed and detailed by the above attached analysis of the technical features of each separate invention. As a result of this clear lack of unity, the first invention only has been searched which has resulted in application claims 1-5 only having been searched.

**Annex to Form PCT/ISA/206
COMMUNICATION RELATING TO THE RESULTS
OF THE PARTIAL INTERNATIONAL SEARCH**

International Application No

PCT/EP 03/00277

1. The present communication is an Annex to the invitation to pay additional fees (Form PCT/ISA/206). It shows the results of the international search established on the parts of the international application which relate to the invention first mentioned in claims Nos.:

- 1-5
2. This communication is not the international search report which will be established according to Article 18 and Rule 43.
3. If the applicant does not pay any additional search fees, the information appearing in this communication will be considered as the result of the international search and will be included as such in the international search report.
4. If the applicant pays additional fees, the international search report will contain both the information appearing in this communication and the results of the international search on other parts of the international application for which such fees will have been paid.

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
P, X	WO 02 28965 A (KRATON POLYMERS RES B V ;HANDLIN DALE LEE JR (US); DJIAUW LIE KHON) 11 April 2002 (2002-04-11) * (same applicant, same invention - invalid application priority date); page 2, line 18-25; page 6, line 22; page 6, line 10 - page 8, line 5; page 8, line 11 - page 9, line 19; claims 1-8; examples * page 5, line 28-32 ---	1-5
X	US 5 346 964 A (SHIBATA TOORU ET AL) 13 September 1994 (1994-09-13) * column 7, line 30; column 1, line 61-column 2, line 1; column 2, line 31-38; column 3, line 9-12, 40-44; column 9, line 22-33; column 10, line 51-column 12, line 20; column 3, line 55-column 4, line 6* column 7, line 44-59 ---	1-5
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☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C

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* Special categories of cited documents:

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *I* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation, or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *Z* document member of the same patent family

Annex to Form PCT/ISA/206
COMMUNICATION RELATING TO THE RESULTS
OF THE PARTIAL INTERNATIONAL SEARCH

International Application No.
PCT/EP 03/00277

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 0 863 193 A (SHELL INT RESEARCH) 9 September 1998 (1998-09-09) * page 6, line 2-5 ; page 2, line 29-54 ; page 3, line 54-56 ; page 4, line 29-34 ; page 4, line 41 - page 5, line 39 *	1-5
Y	US 4 970 259 A (MITCHELL NEIL F ET AL) 13 November 1990 (1990-11-13) * claims 1-15 ; column 3, line 1-9 ; column 4, line 29-36 ; 42-46 ; examples *	1-5
Y	EP 1 061 099 A (KUREHA CHEMICAL IND CO LTD) 20 December 2000 (2000-12-20) * claims 1,2,4,3-17 ; page 4, line 9-31, 42-57 ; page 2, line 1-8 ; abstract *	1-5
A	WO 01 19919 A (SHELL INT RESEARCH) 22 March 2001 (2001-03-22) * abstract ; claims *	1-5
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A	EP 0 413 262 A (KURARAY CO) 20 February 1991 (1991-02-20) * abstract * page 3, line 1-50	1-5
A	EP 0 822 227 A (SHELL INT RESEARCH) 4 February 1998 (1998-02-04) * page 2, line 46-56 ; page 3, line 1-8 ; table 1 *	1-5
A	US 5 627 235 A (HIMES GLENN R) 6 May 1997 (1997-05-06) * column 1, line 10-13 ; column 1, line 60 - column 2, line 5 ; column 2, line 55-65* abstract; table 1	1-5

Patent Family Annex

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/EP 03/00277

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 0228965	A	11-04-2002	AU 2434702 A
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